

A
True Relation
 Of the late CASE in
CONVOCATION,
 Concerning an
ADDRESS
 Proposed to be presented to HER MAJESTY
 upon *The Conclusion of the Peace.*

A Separate Address having been presented to Her Majesty by some Members of the Lower House of Convocation, which has caused several Reflections to be made upon the Archbishop and Bishops, as being wanting in their Duty upon the present Occasion, it is thought proper to give a short Account of that Matter, for the Vindication of their Proceedings in it.

On *Wednesday* the 22d of *April*, the President and Bishops sent down to the Lower House the Form of an Address to be presented to Her Majesty, in the following Words ;

‘ **W** E Your Majesty’s most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Archbishop, and Bishops, and
 ‘ of the Province of *Canterbury*, in Convocation
 ‘ assembled, having often had the Honour to wait on
 A Your

May 1712, 752, 1712
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Your Majesty to congratulate the glorious Successes of War, do now humbly beg Leave to present our Congratulations for the Conclusion of it by a Peace, which we heartily pray may prove glorious to Your Majesty, advantageous to Your People, and a lasting Blessing to all *Europe*.

It is with great Joy that we hear the repeated Assurances which Your Majesty is pleased to give to Your People of Your Zeal for the Protestant Succession, and of Your perfect Friendship with the House of *Hanover*: And we can look upon none as Friends either to Your Majesty or their Country, who do not desire that this may be constantly cultivated on both Sides, and that none of the Friends of the Pretender to Your Throne, nor any other, may be able to lessen a Friendship so necessary to the Preservation of our Church and Religion, and all that is dear to us.

The Zeal Your Majesty has been pleased to express for the promoting of Piety, and the suppressing of Irreligion and Profaneness among Your People, lays a further Obligation upon us to do all we can in our Stations to answer Your Majesty's pious Design. And as we most earnestly pray that Your Majesty may live long to see the good Effect of all Your Endeavours for the Happiness of Your People; so we beg Leave to assure Your Majesty, that it shall be our constant Care to study the Things that make for Peace, and to perswade those who are committed to our Charge, to shew all the Returns of Gratitude and Obedience that are due to so good and gracious a Queen.

April

April 29. Dr. *Bridges*, the substituted Prolocutor, with several Members of the Lower House, brought up to the President and Bishops the following Paper, which he read in the Upper House, and deliver'd to the President, together with the Form of an Address drawn up by the Lower House. The Paper which he read was in these Words:

My Lords,

‘ THE Lower House have commanded me to acquaint your Lordships, that they have consider’d the Form of an Address sent down by your Lordships, and are of Opinion that it is no ways proper for them to agree to the said Form, which seems to them not to express a becoming Joy for the great Blessing of Peace, nor a due Confidence in Her Majesty; but has, on the contrary, such Passages in it as are in both these Respects liable to a suspicious Sense: Nor have they been able, by any Alterations or Amendments, so far to alter the Tendency of it, as to make it fit for them to join in.

‘ They have therefore drawn up another Form, which they have ordered me to offer to your Lordships for your Concurrence, if your Lordships will please to receive it.

The President and Bishops thought themselves very ill used by the Lower House in this extraordinary Message; and as the *Westminster* Election, which was to take up the *Jerusalem Chamber* for some Days, drew on, they ap-

pointed a Committee of all the Bishops to consider of this Paper in the mean Time: And having ordered the Address of the Lower House to lie upon the Table, prorogued the Convocation to *Wednesday May 13.*

On that Day the Committee made their Report, and the House came to this Resolution, which they ordered to be entered on their Books.

‘ **T**HE Paper brought up from the Lower House
 ‘ the last Session by Dr. *Bridges* the substituted
 ‘ Prolocutor, attended with several Members of that
 ‘ House, in which they declare that it is no ways proper
 ‘ for them to agree to the Form of an Address sent
 ‘ down by the President and Bishops, is the greater Dis-
 ‘ respect to them, for being the Repetition of an Attempt
 ‘ which was never persisted in by the Lower House be-
 ‘ fore, save only in the Case of the Address which was
 ‘ sent down by the Upper House *November 14, 1705;*
 ‘ and which then put such a Stop to the Proceedings of
 ‘ the Convocation, as ought to have withheld the Lower
 ‘ House from beginning the same irregular Practice a-
 ‘ gain.

‘ But in the present Case they have not only taken up-
 ‘ on them to set aside the Form of an Address drawn up
 ‘ by the Bishops, without offering any Alterations or A-
 ‘ mendments; but have very indecently declared what
 ‘ cannot possibly be true, That they could not by any
 ‘ Alterations or Amendments make it fit for them to
 ‘ joyn in.

‘ And

‘ And the Reasons they give for this are a further Aggravation of their disrespectful Usage of those to whom they owed more Duty, while they very injuriously treat their Superiours, as wanting a due Confidence in Her Majesty, and expressing themselves in Words liable to a suspicious Sense; which are such Imputations as the Bishops are sure they have no way deserved, and which it very ill becomes their Presbyters to cast upon them.

‘ The Bishops cannot but think it very extraordinary, that their former Address, which express’d the utmost Confidence in Her Majesty, should be rejected by the Lower House, and their present treated with the same Indignity, as expressing too little: But they have this Satisfaction, that they have proceeded in both according to their Judgment and Duty, and the Trust reposed in them; and therefore they hope the Clergy of the Lower House will for the future consider such Matters more calmly, and act more agreeably to that Station they have in the Church.

‘ The Bishops cannot think it reasonable to take that Form of an Address brought up by the Lower House into their Consideration, since the Lower House have shewn so little Regard to that which was sent down to them from the Upper.

When this was done, the President and Bishops despairing of being able to continue upon this Foot any good Correspondence with the Lower House, and considering withal that the Festival was now nigh at hand, and that few Members of the Lower House remain’d in Town, prorogued the Convocation to *June 3*.

Five Days after this Prorogation, when neither House of Convocation was sitting, the Prolocutor, with some Members of the Lower House, attended by several Clergy-men who were not of that Body, waited upon Her Majesty with a separate Address, which differs a little from that which was left upon the Table of the Upper House. In the first Paragraph the Words *the Lower House of* are added; in the fourth, after the Word Friendship, the Words *there is* are omitted; and there is a Transposition in the last, with some other smaller Alterations. When and where these Amendments were made is best known to the Members of the Lower House, whose Address is here printed as it is published in the *Gazette*.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE Your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Clergy of the Province of *Canterbury*, in the *Lower House of* Convocation Assembled, beg Leave to approach Your Majesty with Hearts full of Thankfulness for all the Blessings which have flow'd from Your Wise and Gracious Administration, of which none of Your Subjects have partaken more largely than We, and none therefore ought more readily to acknowledge them.

Nothing was wanting to compleat the Happiness of Your People, and to add the utmost Lustre to Your Reign, but the Conclusion of a Peace, that might perpetuate these Blessings to Us and Our Posterity. This Your Majesty hath at length effected through such Difficulties and Discouragements as could not have been overcome without the greatest Wisdom and Vigilance, supported by equal Firmness and Courage.

‘ We

‘ We have offered up our Prayers to God continually
 ‘ for this great Event, and now bless His Goodness for
 ‘ accomplishing it; not doubting but that it will every way
 ‘ answer the Intentions of Your Royal Heart, and the
 ‘ Expectations of Your People, and be fruitful of the hap-
 ‘ piest Consequences to this Church and Kingdom: Among
 ‘ which we are assured Your Majesty reckons the Oppor-
 ‘ tunity You will have of *cultivating the Arts of Peace*,
 ‘ and giving an effectual Check to that Torrent of Heresy,
 ‘ Irreligion, and Prophaneness, which has for many Years
 ‘ been flowing in upon Us.

‘ We intirely rely on Your Majesty for what You
 ‘ have done, or shall do, to secure the Protestant Succes-
 ‘ sion, (the great Object of our future Hopes;) and We
 ‘ acquiesce in those Assurances You have been pleased
 ‘ to give of the perfect Friendship between Your Ma-
 ‘ jesty and the House of *Hanover*, which no one can
 ‘ suspect, or will endeavour to interrupt, that either
 ‘ bears a Loyal Mind towards Your Majesty, or has
 ‘ a real Regard for the Interests of that Illustrious
 ‘ Family.

‘ May God, who has made Your Reign more Glorious,
 ‘ make it also more Lasting than that of any of Your Roy-
 ‘ al Predecessors, and grant You the Satisfaction of seeing
 ‘ the happy Effects of the Peace, which by Your Ma-
 ‘ jesty He hath given to *Europe*.

‘ We humbly beg Leave to assure Your Majesty, That
 ‘ to these our Prayers We will not fail to join our
 ‘ utmost Endeavours for promoting the Ease and Happi-
 ‘ ness of Your Majesty and Your People, by studying the
 ‘ Things which make for Peace, and by perswading those
 ‘ who

‘ who are committed to our Charge, that laying aside
 ‘ all groundless Jealousies, they may pay all possible Re-
 ‘ turns of Gratitude and Obedience due to so Good and
 ‘ Gracious a Queen.

By comparing these two Addresses, the Reader will see what Foundation there could be for the Clergy of the Lower House to say, that they could not by any Alterations or Amendments make the Address of the Upper House fit for them to joyn in: Though had there been more Foundation for this than can be pretended, it would not have warranted the Clergy of the Lower House to go with a separate Address; which is not only a very great Innovation, but was the more irregular in them, considering the Tenderness with which the Bishops treated the Lower House in the Case of the former Address *November 14, 1705.*

For when Her Majesty had been pleased but a little before, in Her Speech from the Throne, to *observe with Grief that some had been so very malicious, as even in Print to suggest the Church of England, as by Law established, to be in Danger at that Time,* and both Houses of Parliament had by their Addresses assured Her Majesty how much they disliked all such Suggestions; the Archbishop and Bishops thought themselves obliged to do the same in the Convocation also, and drew up the Form of an Address for that Purpose.

This Form was then rejected by the Lower House, who prepared another Form of their own; which however they did not think fit to present separately at that Time. And though the Bishops had Occasion enough given them to have presented the Address they had made, yet they had that Regard to the Lower House, and that
 Desire

Desire of preserving the Unity of the Synod, that they did not resent, as they might justly have done, the Indignity that was put upon them ; but contented themselves with only entering in their own Books some Observations upon the irregular Proceedings of the Lower House.

Whether the Lower House have observed the same Temper in their present Conduct, or have had that due Regard to the Subordination of Presbyters to their Bishops, or that Concern for the Unity of the Church which they ought always to shew, or have acted agreeably to the Assurance they gave Her Majesty in this very Address of their *studying the Things which make for Peace*, is left to the Judgment of all such who will impartially consider the Case that is thus laid before them.

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Desire of preserving the Unity of the Synod, that they did not release as they might justly have done; the Indignity that was put upon them; but contented themselves with only entering in their own Books some Observations upon the irregular Proceedings of the Lower House.

Whether the Lower House have observed the same Temper in their present Conduct, or have had that due regard to the Subordination of Presbyters to their Bishops, on that Concern for the Unity of the Church, which they ought always to show, or have acted agreeably to the Assistance they gave Her Majesty in this very Address of their Addressing the House which makes for Peace, is left to the Judgment of all such who will impartially consider the Case that is thus laid before them.